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**JULY MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday evening, the 12th inst., at 8 o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, Assistant Curator, Department of Herpetology, California Academy of Sciences, will talk on the subject "Some Birds of the Galapagos Islands."

This talk will be illustrated with moving pictures taken during Mr. Slevin's recent visit to those islands. Mr. Slevin has an extensive knowledge of that group of islands, having spent a year there with the Academy's Galapagos Expedition of 1905-6, and he visited there again in December, 1927.



**JULY FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, July 15th, to Golden Gate Park. Take McAllister car No. 5, "Beach" sign, to 43rd Avenue entrance on Fulton Street. Party will start on the trip at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

The usual route will be followed; skirting Chain of Lakes, and passing Stadium, Spreckels and Lloyd Lakes, ending at the Japanese Tea Garden, where lunch will be eaten if the party so desires.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUNE MEETING:** The one hundred and thirty-fifth meeting of the Association was held on the 14th of June in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary.

The attendance was unusually small on account of vacation absences, a very regrettable circumstance because the lecture of the evening was very interesting and most picturesquely delivered by Miss M. E. McLellan of the California Academy of Sciences.

Miss McLellan made an enchanting narrative of a recent trip into the western coast of Mexico (State of Nayarit). She arrived in the vicinity of San Blas at the time the rainy season should have been closing. This happened to be one of the unusual years as often declared by the natives of the locality.

She was greeted by rain instead of sun and each day of her stay the rain grew heavier until the rivers and small side streams were over their banks forming large inland lagoons. Down each roadway which led through the jungles came streams of water and she found wading birds several miles inland feeding along these roadways which were carrying continuous streams.

One familiar with the insect life of Mexico would hardly wonder that many of the insect eating birds should be larger in size and more conspicuous in plumage than our native birds of the same family, that is if an abundance or an over abundance of insect life makes this so.

To the fruit eating birds, of which there are many in this locality, nature is most lavish in providing them with an easy living.

To the seed eaters such as those of the finch or sparrow family many parts of Mexico would not be so generous.

When we looked at the study skins showing a king fisher nearly twice the size of the jester of our inland streams it would seem that the fishes in that climate also had an effect on growth but a question might arise on examining one of the king fisher family no larger than the size of a small sparrow.

The bluejays of our state are nimble, spry and saucy. A comparison with the beautiful Mexican specimen shown makes ours seem like pygmies and if this specimen shows the agility of its California relation it certainly would be an exciting sight to see that bird bounding up through the branches of a tropical forest.

The parrot and parrakeet family were shown in different sizes and though lovely to look at are unpleasant to listen to when in numbers in their native habitat.

In the willows bordering our two great rivers we have a sly, quiet, inconspicuous bird known as the California cuckoo. A study skin of its relative from the tropics, to the unpracticed eye, shows little resemblance except in the bill, for that seal brown bird with a tail from twelve to fourteen inches long, tipped with wide white bands derives its name of squirrel-cuckoo from its peculiar motions in running through the branches of the trees after the manner of a squirrel.

It is quite the custom in the tropical American countries for the inhabitants to wear bright colors, especially on their fiesta days and, after viewing the skins of so many vividly colored birds, it would seem that the human beings of those countries would be out of harmony if dressed in somber colors. The bright reds and vermilions that are often used in their wearing apparel are even brighter and more vivid in many of their feathered neighbors.

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## THE STATE BIRD CAMPAIGN

Politics with arguments pro and con fundamental principles and indulging in personalities is growing warm in the campaign for the selection of Bird to be emblematic of our State.

In San Leandro knowers and lovers of birds have adopted a platform and selected their candidate and in campaigning in their favor do not spare the candidate of another powerful party.

"Why not combine practicability with sentiment?" contend the San Leandrans. "An Owl is a valuable critter and a Quail is good for nothing. Why, it furnishes only a mouthful when served on the table. A Quail only a few hours old will get that questioning look in its eye and start wondering if there are some good looking members of the opposite sex hanging around. The Quail is a busybody and gadabout. Its only note of distinction is the little feathered crest on its head. Otherwise it would be quite commonplace.

"But the Owl! Now there is a bird to be proud of," the San Leandrans contend. "Has an Owl ever been found butting in to another's business? Does it not perch on a limb and indulge in deep mental problems for hours at a time? Does it ever tell all it knows with the garrulous chirping of the Quail? Rather, does it not continually seek knowledge by its oft repeated 'Who-o-o?'

"And again. An Owl earns its keep. It catches mice and other rodents and pests with facility and nonchalance, and is a boon to a farmer. The agriculturist of the state who does not maintain at least one Owl in his property is losing money," the local advocates declare. "A second rate Owl," they aver, "can catch more mice than a first class cat."

"Nominate the Owl" urges San Leandro.

## MOTHER COOT

The fifth day of July I spent at North Lake in Golden Gate Park and although the number of birds present was not great it was with interest that I watched the education of two half grown coots. To the casual observer the childhood of the coot seems pleasant as they take to the water a few hours after hatching and are credited with being able to dive and remain under water for three minutes when only a day or two old. The particular coot I had under observation was a mother with two half grown young who were within a few feet of me for several hours. The mother dived on an average of twenty times an hour and gave the returns of her labor to the young seventeen times per hour, retaining the food for herself only three times per hour. The young dived occasionally and always after the mother and with five exceptions out of one hundred five dives made by the mother they always reached the surface first and were ready and peeping for food as soon as the mother was sighted.

Along about three in the afternoon there seemed to come a lull in the diving activities of the young. They were going down only enough to cover their backs with water but were just as ready to be fed as ever, and then came the time when the mother dived and the young simply jumped out of the water and fell back with a splash and awaited the return of the mother with food.

As far as I was able to see this only happened three times and then there were a lot of happenings. Mother coot rose to the surface, dropped the dainty morsel she held in the bill and took the nearest of her offspring by the back of the neck, shaking the unlucky youngster until the water boiled and at every shake the peeping increased not only in volume but also in tone.

The second youngster took the hint and commenced diving but this did not altogether appease the mother's wrath for she soon sought it out and pecked the back of its neck unmercifully. I did not interfere. One reason was I did not care to get a wetting and another was that this mother coot might know as much, if not more about raising her young than I knew. The latter proved correct for shortly the young began to dive as if no thought of deceiving their mother had ever entered their minds. How the mother knew that the young did not dive I have yet to discover.

CARL R. SMITH.



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE PARKS

The Eighth National Conference of State Parks was convened in this city during several days in June and is reported to have been well attended. The program of activities, papers and discussions included a wide assortment of matters and interests related to parks, their administration, benefit to and enjoyment by the public, etc., but nothing suggestive of a thought of those beings that add ornament and beauty to, bring active and interesting life into and tune the air of the parks while they ceaselessly battle against the enemies of that other life there, the vegetable, trees and brushes.

All human means of preserving plant life in forest or elsewhere are sources of cost and annoyance and disfigurements; but the birds that do more effective and continuous work while adding to all that is pleasing to the senses are ignored!

President D'Evelyn addressed a letter to one of the officials begging that the mention of "Bird" be crowded into one of the unlisted discussions.



## THE GULL

THE JUNE FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, June 17th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County, under the leadership of Mr. Arthur Myer. The weather was ideal, bright but not too warm in the valley and delightful at the beach.

On the bay large numbers of California murres were swimming and flying about, some staying on the edge of the wake of the ferryboat permitting close observation.

Young crows were being fed by their parents in the cypress trees at the entrance into the valley. Near by, in a Madroño tree, an adult and a young black-crowned night heron were perched. On returning late in the afternoon the adult was still (or perhaps again) in the tree and a young bird was looking for food in a slough a few yards distant.

It surely was finch day as far as number of individuals was concerned. Linnets (house finches) willow and green-backed goldfinches were unusually numerous and filled the air with song. To this music the purple finch occasionally added his masterpiece. While mentioning music it might be well to add that other songsters also entertained. Russet-backed thrushes, song and nuttall sparrows, as well as lutescent and pileolated warblers, Vigors wren and wren-tits added to the joy of the outing.

A beautiful linnet's nest with five eggs was located in the midst of a large thistle plant (*silybum marianum*), surely a convenient place surrounded by one of the bird's favorite foods. Linnets and California towhees were seen carrying nesting material.

In the small clump of willows near the ocean while enjoying many species of birds a long eared owl was observed.

Birds encountered were: California brown pelican, Farallone double crested and Baird pelagic cormorants, California great blue and black-crowned night herons, northern turkey vulture, western red-tailed hawk, coast California quail, northern, western and California gulls, California murres, western mourning dove, American long-eared owl, Anna and Allen hummingbirds, willow downy woodpecker, red-shafted flicker, black phoebe, cliff and barn swallow, southern coast steller and northwestern California jays, western American crow, California plain titmouse, Marin chestnut-backed chickadee, Pacific coast bush-tit, ruddy wren-tit, Vigor's Bewick wren, russet-backed thrush, western Mexican blue-bird, California Hutton vireo, lutescent orange-crowned and golden pileolated warblers, San Francisco red-winged black bird, western meadowlark, California Brewer black bird, Pacific black-headed grosbeak, California purple finch, California linnet, willow American and green-backed Arkansas goldfinches, San Francisco spotted and San Francisco brown towhees, western lark, Nuttall white-crowned and Marin song sparrows. Forty-six species.

Members in attendance: Misses Martha Crum and Pettit; Mrs. Kelly; Messrs. Lockerbie and Myer. Guests: Misses Goodman and White; Messrs. Felix and Harold Juda, Mendelson, Wagner, Weiler and Rosen. Five members and eight guests.

JUNEA W. (MRS. G. EARLE) KELLY, Historian.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary.

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